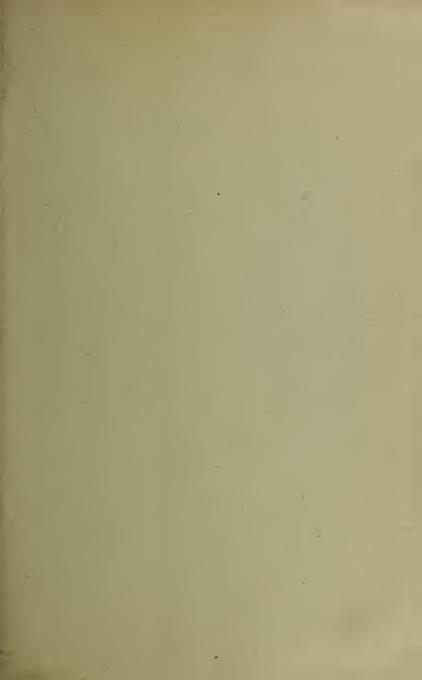
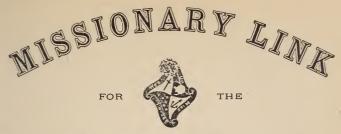




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Moman's Union Missionary Society of America

FOR HEATHEN LANDS.

VOL. 10.

MAY, 1879.

No. 3.

THE letters of our Japanese pupils have from time to time been published in our paper, but in this number those who have become Bible readers now enter the ranks as our regular correspondents. We are sure that their quaint and original transcript of their work will give great joy to many hearts who have labored both here and in Japan to bring these young girls to the knowledge of the Saviour.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

INDIA-Calcutta.

Letter from Miss Hook.

(Com. by Germantown, Aux. to Phil. Br.)

OUTLOOK FOR THE YEAR.

I feel sure that our friends at home will like to know what is the outlook from our standpoint on the third of January, 1879. Does the work pay? is asked by many at home. Let me give a few statistics.

In Calcutta and Rajpore we have under instruction one thou-

sand women and girls. Of these, part are little girls in school. In Calcutta there are twelve schools, containing upwards of four hundred and thirty-five children; in Rajpore eight, containing three hundred children. All of these are zenana schools (that is, the children belong to the upper and middle classes), and all are held in houses that we rent from the natives themselves in any quarter where children are most numerous. The rest of the pupils are women, who are visited singly, or two or three in a house, and religious instruction imparted to them by conversation, reading, or any way that is found best. I believe our number exceeds that of any previous year.

But numbers alone do not prove success. Opposition to Christianity is rarely found, and many hear the Word gladly. Idol worship more and more is becoming a form that few look to in time of trouble for consolation or safety. In Rajpore this year we have stationed a Christian family to overlook the schools. In all that region they are the only Christians, and at first much opposition was made to their living there; but now they abide safely, and are treated kindly by the inhabitants. The Babu is often inquired of regarding his religion by those he meets at the bazar or in his rounds to and from the schools. He was once a heathen, and knows his people well, and is very clever in winning them to himself. I think he is opening the way for a good work among the Babus, as well as with the women and children. One strong indication of progress is the fact that there especially, large numbers of girls continue in school after they are married. This created some difficulty at first, and our teacher was forbidden to examine the married girls, but after a few months his wife was taken sick, and he took charge of her work with them, and nothing more was said about it.

Discouragements, however, must and do occur. The past rainy season has been very long, and great quantities of rain have fallen. Large tracts of country in the vicinity and south of Calcutta have become more or less submerged, and vegetation is rank and thick. The cold season has been long delayed: cool winds have not come to dispel the malaria that hovers

all over the country. Hence fevers and cholera have prevailed to an alarming extent, and caused great suffering. On this account the children have been unable to attend school regularly, and the classes have been greatly broken up and progress interrupted. The native teachers also have suffered much. Babu and his family, being attacked with fever at Rajpore, were obliged to come up to the city, and for a month neither were able to do anything. The violence of the fever this year is in a measure attributable to the poor being stinted for food, and their system having become impoverished. The coming harvest is still doubtful, much of the rice having been soaked away. The rice fields are wonderful to behold. Rice will always strive to keep its head above water, and its growth increases as it rises; hence the stalk is sometimes seven feet long. This year much of the reaping will have to be done in boats, and there will be great loss from blight. How seldom, as day by day we enjoy the fairest of the rice crops on our tables, do we think of the painful toil of the producer for months, as he literally lives in water.

In one district during the past few months there has sprung up a spirit of inquiry. Delegations have been sent up to the city to Dr. Thoburn, requesting that teachers be sent to tell them about Christianity. The people were anxious to have their girls taught, as only one in an entire district had ever learned a word. We have assisted them in opening a school for girls.

In the Foundling, where there are now one hundred and two children, some girls in their teens are being prepared for zenana work, or for useful lives. They are making creditable progress, and trying to walk in the paths of uprightness, and some we believe are truly born again. The little ones play, and pick up here a little, and there a little, are good and naughty, after the manner of children. The health of all departments of our mission has been remarkably good, notwithstanding the unhealthfulness of the season, and we feel very thankful to a kind Heavenly Father for this blessing. Some puny little babies have come into the Foundling of late, but they are thriving,

and all look cheerful and promising. In review of the past year, we feel that God has dealt very graciously with us, in abundant labors; He has prospered us, and mercifully given His presence to help us over stony places.

Letter from Miss Marston. INTEREST IN HOLY THINGS.

I have had great encouragement this week, and needed it, for a Poojah to the Goddess of Wisdom had distracted many of my pupils, who, although they may not have been very devout in the service, have so feasted, as to make themselves ill. All accessories of learning, such as books, slates and pencils, are sacred, and in consequence all lessons are suspended. Even my pundit, whom I had looked upon as too enlightened to indulge in such nonsense, asked for a holiday. When I expostulated, he said it was only for the children, who enjoyed it as we did Christmas. But I begin to fear that it is something deeper than this, and that strange gods still hold a power over him with all his learning. He has listened with keen interest to our lessons on the New Testament, and even with tears to a recital of the Lord's suffering for sinners. Feeling very helpless and discouraged, it was comfort unspeakable to find that in two of my houses they cared for none of these things. In one house two women were reading the fifth chapter of St. Matthew, and listened breathlessly to the explanation on the beatitudes. One of them, a poor widow, seemed to feel that the teaching was for her.

In another house, where I had taught almost hopelessly for two years, both the Babu and his wife seemed deeply impressed. The Bo told me last week, that the Babu had long believed, though he was unwilling to confess, that our religion was the true one. When I remembered what a bigoted Hindu he had been, threatening once to close the zenana, I felt that we had great cause for rejoicing.

Some of my pupils have been obliged to give up their regular studies on account of domestic cares, but I give them a weekly

Bible lesson, which they receive most gladly. One of them has recently had a little boy, who I told her must be brought up a little Christian, to which the mother earnestly responded. This lady has promised to attend church regularly, and I think it will result in the whole family abjuring Hinduism. Two widowed sisters living in the house are rigid Hindus, observing all the Poojahs with great strictness; but just now they are in a tender mood and have consented to listen to the Bible lesson. This is only one of many cases awakening especial interest at this time. There is a rapidly growing desire to know more of Jesus. More and more they feel the need of something their gods cannot do for them, and every day the number increases of those who gather in the rooms where we teach, to hear what we have to tell them.

One day, an old woman bent and worn with the weight of eighty years, came in and sat by my side. I asked if she had ever heard of Jesus. She looked up in an eager enquiring way, and finding she was deaf, for a moment I was overwhelmed with a feeling of helplessness. But I thought of the power that could unstop deaf ears, and so looking to Him for help, I tried to make known as clearly as possible the story of Jesus' love for her. She listened with clasped hands while the tears streamed over her wrinkled face. She said she was very old now, and she had done many works for her gods and made many prayers to them, but they had done nothing for her. I earnestly pray that the words so feebly spoken, but spoken in faith, may be blessed of Him and used for His gracious purpose.

The week has been one of such intense interest, that now at its close, from a feeling of exhaustion, I am unable to write of it as I long to. It is not bodily fatigue that wearies, but the sense of awful responsibility, which one is not always able to throw upon One who is able to bear it all.

On New Years' morning I was requested to stand sponsor for one of a family of four, who renounced heathenism, and were baptised into the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour. The father had been baptised in October, and on New Years' morning the mother and children began their new life.

INDIA-Allahabad.

Letter from MISS LATHROP. (Communicated by Philadelphia Branch.) DAILY ROUNDS.

Wherever I have been among my old pupils I have met with a warm welcome. So far as I now know, not one whom I was teaching a year ago has died, though the past hot season has been one of great suffering among the natives. One woman I taught has lost her eldest son, a bright boy of ten years, by cholera, and the shock to her is very great. He was often by while his mother was being instructed, and I gave him books which he read and used to talk to him about Christ. Perhaps his heart was touched by the story of His love, and he is gathered into that home the Saviour has gone to prepare for them that love Him. The father and mother were at one time thinking seriously of giving up all and becoming Christians, but the thought of these two boys kept them back. Now their chief joy and delight is taken away, and I hope their hearts will be softened rather than hardened by the blow.

I have just come in from the little day school in the yard. I heard Jennie and Lizzie give the children some lessons, then all assembled for prayer. Boisterous and unruly as they may be at other times, during prayer every head was bowed and the little hands folded together. It was a pretty sight, and I prayed for them that not only their heads but their hearts might be bowed before Him who alone is worthy of worship.

The war on the North-western frontier is naturally a subject of interest here. The Mohammedans do not seem at all affected by it, though doubtless their sympathies are with the Afghans, their brothers in the faith. There are in all the large cities numbers of pretty well drilled volunteers, so that the soldiers called away from their posts in India do not by any means leave us defenceless. Not all of the regulars are away, and many of the chiefs of the native States, both Hindus and Mohammedans, are offering troops to the government. Both here and in Calcutta the cool season brings us increased work, for which we are thankful.

(Letter to a friend.) RECEPTION OF GIFTS.

I promised to write and tell you of the reception the dolls you dressed and gave me for the mission schools met with. I unpacked them in Allahabad about the second week in December, but thought best to continue our usual plan of giving presents to school children after the holidays are over and they are again settled for the year's work. The children love their school when once in it, but are so dilatory in their habits that unless they have some special inducements to come back promptly, many of them will wait days and weeks before they begin. * * This year we were unable to begin work the second of January, owing to the great Mohammedan festival, a time when the streets of the Native City are filled with crowds of noisy excited men shouting and beating drums. While we are not exactly afraid of them, we stay away because we think best There are so many religious fanatics among the Mohammedans, and they are out in force at this time. There have been instances known in our own time of these men killing Christians to insure themselves a reward in heaven, even when they have known there was little hope of evading the punishment of death. We have no desire to help them in this way, and so refrain from going among them. I do not think there has been a year since I came to India that there have not been fears expressed of a rising among the Mohammedans at this their Maharram festival. This year was not an exception, and owing to the war on the frontier between the English and Afghans, who are Mohammedans, perhaps more than usual solicitude was felt. It is all over now, the noise has ceased, and the usual quiet prevails.

Yesterday morning we sent out the bullock carts and gathered the Bengali girls to our house to begin school. In the afternoon, when lessons were done, I called them all together in their large room where they assemble morning and evening for prayers, and after having prayers with them I told them of you and of what you had done for them. With their bright eyes and eager looks they expressed, if not gratitude, full appreciation

of your efforts. There are eight girls from seven to nine years of age in the first class. They have advanced beautifully in their studies the past year, and I gave them their choice among the dolls, or if they preferred, they could have a small tea-set, some of which had been given for the school. All took dolls, with one exception. This girl took some time to deliberate, and at last said she would have the tea-set. I thought she would tire of her choice, but evidently she did not, for I afterwards heard her laboring to convince the others that her gift was the best. The thanks of the children to you for sending the dolls, and to me for bringing them were profuse and earnest. The presents do good in drawing the children and keeping them here. I have to-day told them that to each one who was present every day, I would on Friday of each week give a little ticket with a Bengali text of Scripture on it, and when they had four of them, and could repeat the text, I would give a picture-card. There are just fifty in the school, so you will see I have still forty dolls remaining, and these I shall give to the children in two other schools in the city.

One of these schools is among some very poor children who were collected and are being taught by a girl who lived with her father on our place for a time and worked as she had opportunity. The young ladies in the house taught her to read, and she afterwards gathered these girls in her part of the city, and is doing well with them. She was married while I was away. I suppose she is thirteen or fourteen years of age. Had she not been of a very low caste among the Hindus she could not have remained unmarried to that age. The poor people really have privileges not granted to the rich, such as going out freely and in not being married in childhood, or at least in not being obliged to be married in order to keep their social position. There are three Christian girls in the school, and their appearance is so different you would notice them at once as you stepped into the room. Their clothes are made something in European shape and are clean, and on their feet they wear warm stockings and shoes.

Letter from Miss Anthony. AVERTING ILL LUCK.

I must tell you of an incident which occured in one of my houses the other day. A pupil of mine was learning to make a baby's cap, but before it could be finished she left Allahabad, and asked me to complete the cap and give it to her sister for her baby. She was living with her mother, and she and her aunt were being taught by me. Her sister lives in her own house, and is visited by one of our ladies. On my last visit the grandmother brought the baby for whom the cap was made for me to see, and then told me that everything the child wore were presents, the mother had no clothes for the child, and had even gone so far as to ask her lady to work her a pair of socks. I asked her the reason of all this and was told that , all her children die, therefore they did not wish to give her anything and had not named her, thinking thus to avert the ill luck attending her children. I remember an old servant of my father's, whose children died one after another, till at last in despair, when a little son was born he brought him and laid him at the feet of another person, and begged her to buy the child for a few cowries or shells. She did so, giving him some clothes also for the boy, who was ever after that called that person's son. Our servant was afraid to call him his own son lest he should die. This superstition clings to both Hindus and Mohammedans alike. This old man was a Mohammedan. Many of them for this same reason give their children queer, and what they consider ugly names, in order to avert the envy and ill will of the evil one.

Last Thursday I was called into a Hindu house where another lady teaches, as the mother of the pupils was very anxious to see as many ladies as she could. They are always very curious to see us. It was a small house but clean, and they had a table and chairs ready for their teacher's visit. It is a pleasure to go to places where they are evidently expecting one, and would be much disappointed if we did not go. There are several girls in this house and one young married Bo. I was very much surprised when they pointed to quite a boy as the husband of this Bo.

CHINA-Peking.

Letter from Miss Colburn.

DAY OF GLAD TIDINGS.

An unusual pressure during the month of November has taxed our strength heavily, but the last day, Saturday afternoon toils and cares were forgotten, as with glad hearts we all gathered in our usual place of worship with the native preacher, while Dr. Blodget after a careful examination, baptised the teacher of the school and six pupils. Four are from Shantung. Two from Peking, one of these has been in the Mission but six months, the others not yet two years. The oldest is sixteen, and comes out in the face of opposition and persecution. The youngest is ten, a decided character giving clear evidence of a change of heart. It was also an occasion of deep joy to the five who were baptised at the beginning of this year. We trust that the teacher will prove a great help to us, and be very useful in the service of his Master. The good news, that seven more have here heard and received the Truth, will, we know, send another gleam of light to the hearts of the dear friends who desire to sustain us.

CYPRUS-Larnaka.

Letter from MRS. FLUHART.

Feb. 12. It is with a feeling of encouragement that I write you; not that there are great numbers in the school to be reported, but the prospects are favorable. Every body is so kind to me and I have so many words of sympathy that I already am quite at home. Some one has an eye to our happiness in one sense, for yesterday I was quite surprised by a box from a merchant containing some delicacies.

I have the promise of several boarders and persons are coming continually to make enquiries. I have mentioned the poverty here, but have extended my acquaintance since, and find numbers are quite well off. The Bible Agent here has obtained the sanction of the Archbishop and finds the work very encouraging. There is apparently a liberality here not met with in Greece.

JAPAN-Yokohama.

Letter from Mrs. Viele. -

A COUNTRY EXPERIENCE.

Last week, accompanied by two of our native Christian girls, I went out in the country with Mrs. Pierson, to hold meetings among the Japanese. We started soon after noon for our first ten miles ride, over not very smooth roads, that were just wide enough to allow the horses, with their loads, to pass.

The Japanese have not yet learned the use of wheels, except with the *jin-ri-ki-sha*, in which we are drawn about the country and which was a Yankee invention, nearly everything being conveyed on pack horses. Not an uncommon thing is to see goods or grain, equal in bulk to six or eight barrels, fastened to the back and sides of these beasts of burden, and a man perched on the top, though a common way is to lead the horse by a rope.

Arriving at six o'clock at a little Japanese village, with one street running through the centre, we went to the hotel and engaged lodgings. On entering we were requested to remove our shoes, which we did, and were conducted up stairs (or ladder) and shown into a good sized room, containing not an article of furniture except the clean straw matting on the floor. Seating ourselves on this, which was the only thing to do under the circumstances, we ordered supper for our two young girls, who occupied an adjoining room, separated from ours by sliding paper doors. Our basket, containing a supply of provisions for two days, being brought in, also a little furnace containing a few coals of fire, called in Japan a hibachi, which was placed on the floor in the middle of the room, we proceeded to make our coffee and prepare our supper, sitting on the floor while cooking and eating, the latter being not an unpleasant part of our ceremony after our long jolting ride.

About eight o'clock, the two rooms being thrown into one, and lighted by a small cotton wick placed in a cup of grease, the people, who had been notified that a meeting would be held at that hour, began to assemble. Their swarthy faces and half

clothed forms formed a strange, weird group in the shadowy room, as they sat on the floor listening to what was said, occasionally interrupting the speakers by united expressions of assent, like the amens in a Methodist prayer-meeting. One complacent looking man, looking particularly pleased at something that was said, took out his pipe and lighting it, gave a few puffs of evident appreciation, and then passing it to his neighbor, settled himself in a listening attitude again. The service, which lasted one hour and a half, consisted of singing, prayer and speaking by Mrs. Pierson and the two girls.

After all had gone we were provided with a number of heavy quilts, two of which substituted for a mattrass, one rolled up for a pillow, and one for covering, made a very comfortable bed and gave us a good night's rest, from which we had scarcely wakened when, without ceremony, a door was opened and a wooden tub containing water for our ablutions, and also the hibachi for our breakfast preparations, were placed upon the floor, both of which suggestions were kindly received and acted upon forthwith. For our accommodations we were charged twenty-five cents for the two girls, they having had two meals each, consisting of several dishes of Japanese food, got up in good hotel style, besides the inevitable bucket of rice, steaming hot, over which a little waiter girl presided ready to replenish their dishes as often as required. And for the honor of being foreigners Mrs. Pierson and myself were charged twenty-five cents each, receiving a receipted bill.

After many good-byes and invitations to call again, we left, travelling eight miles farther, through groves of mulberry trees and over a beautiful country where the farmers were just harvesting their grain. It being the time of the opening of the chestnut burs, they growing plentifully in Japan and lying about under the trees, I was taken back to my girlhood days, when I used to pound out the rich, brown nuts between two stones; the possession of them when success had crowned my efforts amply repaying me for an occasional finger bruise and the pricks of the ugly burs. I did not resist the temptation to try again, but both the enthusiasm of the pounding and the flavor

of the nuts had seemed to have sadly degenerated, and my attempt to be a child again was a decided failure.

When we reached our next stopping place, the home of the parents of one of my little girls, well-to-do farmers, we received a hearty welcome, expressed by many and continued low bows. A room was placed at our disposal, furnished exactly like the one we had at the hotel. The never-failing *hibachi* being brought, we prepared and ate our dinner, and after a good rest, in company with the lady of the house and one of our girls as interpreter, I walked over the farm, which was cultivated and well cared for, and had been owned and occupied by the same family for seventeen hundred years, I was told, referring of course to their ancestry.

We walked through the village and visited a Buddhist temple, which had just been built, and on a sign-board, about six feet square, standing in a conspicuous place, were written in Japanese the names of all who had given toward the building and the amount contributed. The lady pointed with evident pride to her own subscription of ten dollars. Surely the Japanese are not far behind us in some things. In a small shrine in the temple were kept, we were told, the bones of the Son of the true God of Japan.

The meeting in the evening was held in the great farm kitchen, which, compared with the other rooms in the house, in point of size and convenience, would correspond very well with our New England kitchen. Instead of the hibachi, which in ordinary houses, and on ordinary occasions, answers every purpose for family cooking, a place in the middle of the room, about three feet square, was cut from the floor, and on a bed of ashes, in this opening, a bright fire was burning. On an iron bar, extending from the ceiling, hung the steaming tea-kettle, over which one of the family constantly presided, replenishing the teapot, filling and passing the little cups to each guest, as they came in to the meeting, they sitting on the floor, and after drinking the tea, listening attentively to the service, which closed about ten o'clock. A servant then brought in two large dishes of potatoes, which she had been cooking in another room, and

placing them on the floor, with chop-sticks in each dish, all proceeded to help themselves, passing them round from one to the other. Fresh tea was made of which every one partook, chatting pleasantly and seeming in excellent humor. The repast being finished, with many profound bows, the head quite touching the floor, one by one they departed.

It requires but a few hours rain, in Japan, to make the country roads almost impassable. This we had in the night, and the rain continuing in the morning, we thought it best to start for home as early as possible. When we were prepared to leave, a wooden tub, filled with potatoes steaming hot, was placed on the floor for our refreshment, with which we all regaled ourselves, and then with many expressions of gratitude and appreciation on both sides, we started. Of the ride home but little need be said. We travelled through the pouring rain, and over roads which seemed to have no bottom. The back-slidings of the poor coolies in climbing the slippery hills, were only equalled in peril by the wild career with which they rushed us down on the other side. More than once might one have been seen lying his whole length in the mire, endangering his own limbs and the life of the hapless rider. Several times might have been seen four weary pilgrims plodding their muddy way over ditches and sloughs where it would have been madness to ride. But neither the rain nor the mud was wet enough to dampen my ardor or make me wish that I had not come, for the more formidable the difficulties the keener my sense of the ludicrousness of the scene, and I was in more danger of injury from laughter than anything else.

As it is a long road that has no turning, so our road turned into our own gate about seven o'clock at night, and we ended our troubles with a bath and good supper. Many times during the trip I was led to contrast the thrifty industry of the Japanese with the shiftless indolence of the Russians, among whom I had so lately travelled.

Surely the Japanese are the cleanest people in the world. I am more and more pleasantly impressed with their graceful manners, honesty, and simple, natural way of living, much of

which I have seen while visiting my Sunday-school scholars. Their wants are so few and easily supplied, and quite in contrast are the quiet faces of the common people with the sad, careworn look of the Emperor, whom I saw some time ago riding in his grand carriage, guarded by a retinue of finely equipped horsemen.

Poor man, with all the honor and grandeur of his station, how much he needs our sympathy and prayers, for, of his millions of subjects, not one has such constantly absorbing anxiety, and his sad face reminded me that "uneasy lies the head that wears the crown."

Letter from Miss Fletcher.

NATIONAL TRAITS.

The Japanese are ready correspondents, for in the native style they seem to be limited to "airy nothings," the product of the surface soil of politeness overlying the whole national character. When a knowledge of our language gives them the use of a foreign pen, I often notice a freedom that is not common among ourselves. I should perhaps substitute writer for correspondent, as they hardly meet exactly our idea of the latter word.

After the Christmas and New Year holidays, spent at their homes by most of them, the girls are again busy with study, with their Chinese and Japanese examination not far off. Sono has been called into requisition this year for teaching two of the primary classes in spelling and arithmetic, and Mrs. Pierson says, promises to be an efficient help as she grows older, if we can keep her with us.

Our Saturdays are almost wholly given up to bathing and dressing the hair. Summer and winter the Japanese must have their scald once or twice a day, or as many times a week as it may be. For this purpose the bath-houses are institutions in the cities and villages. I have seen the members of the families taking a steam in the big barrels in front of the houses. Hence the propriety of allotting a day in the week, and allowing the national propensity for this practice. The hair with the ladies

is in its arrangement and adornment a matter of time and taste. They employ regular hair dressers once or twice a week, and the elaboration of the head requires a skill that foreigners can hardly appreciate. Our pupils perform for each other the operation of arranging the hair once a week. With them neatness does not require this oftener. * * *

REVIEW OF SIX YEARS' PROGRESS.

The new year opened for us with abundant cause for gratitude for past, and hopes for increased blessing in the future. The week of prayer, as appointed by the Evangelical Alliance, is with us a special season of encouragement in work and joy in the Lord. At the annual meeting, held alternately in Yokohama and Tokio, on Thursday of that week, there is a large gathering of Christian people of all denominations, missionaries and others, and I think to all it is a "feast of fat things, of wines on the lees, well-refined." This year the meeting was held in our city, and was intensely interesting; besides the address of the president, there were others from members of the Alliance, on subjects of moment to the church at large. I copy from the first statistics of the work in Japan, during the past six years, which will be of interest to friends who are not eye-witnesses of the result: "There are now in Japan about eighty-one male and single female missionaries; about forty-three organized churches; some 1,500 church members; thirty boarding and day schools, with some 850 pupils; three theological schools, with about 175 students; fifty-four Sunday-schools, with some 2,000 scholars; ten ordained native pastors; some ninety-five native assistant preachers; seven colporteurs and Bible distributors; forty-seven Bible women; 140 churches and preaching places; two hospitals; seven dispensaries; and some 18,000 patients treated during the past year." This will give you some definite standpoint in regard to the success that has followed the introduction of the Gospel into a land in which, seven years ago, there was not a single church organization, and scarcely a voice among the millions of its inhabitants to take up the song of salvation and echo it through the hills and valleys lying in the shadows of the second death.

Letter from YASU, a Bible-reader.

The happy new year has dawned upon us, and we have spent our vacation very happily, and by the blessing of the Almighty God we have resumed our usual duty of studies and work among the women. We had very pleasant Christmas-tree on 24th of December. We had Scripture recitations, and two hymns in English and one Japanese, and five of the little children recited a poem, and also a dialogue between the strangers and the school-girls. The stranger was the old woman and her granddaughter, who pretended that they have never seen the Christmas-tree. As they were coming in, they were very much astonished to see such a pretty tree, and began to ask the girls what it was for. They told why we rejoice on this day, and the old woman had a cane in her hand, and she covered her face with what we call a zukin, and had spectacles on. And she talked every sort of funny thing, and we all had a hearty laugh.

It was a joyful time. And next morning we all went down to church and heard a very nice sermon from the Japanese pastor, and after it was over we believers gathered at pastor's and took our Christmas dinner with them, it was most friendly association. And from there we separated, and some of us went up to Tokio to spend the vacation. I have been very busy in going around to see my friends.

Once with five of the Christian sisters, we went to see Asakusa, where there is one of the most celebrated temples of Kuwannon, and around this temple there are so many things to see, and we can buy most anything we want. And on one side of this temple there is a large dove-cot and hundreds of doves flying about. This temple reminds me of the one which Christ entered, and saw the merchants selling and buying, and He drove them away. The people consider this is the first place they must see, so every day thousands of people are going up to worship. If you could see, you would be surprised to see the crowds pushing along, but especially on festival day called Shimanrokusehnichi (which means forty-six thousand days), and they consider that whoever went to worship on this day it would have been

same as if they had been faithful believers during those days, therefore the millions of people are going, and it would be very great danger for the little children and old people to go. And in the temple there is a large treasury box, and as they go to worship, they throw pennies in. I will astonish you to tell you the amount of the pennies. Sometimes in one day there are thousands of dollars gathered. We went to see many other places, but I must tell you a little now about my meetings.

Our Monday meeting is at the place called Ota. To this meeting the people are not permitted to come. Perhaps because they are the people of the high ranks, so they do not wish to have strangers, but the family is gathered and study the Gospel. They have been taught almost two years, but we have not seen them to profess to love God, but the old lady of the house felt the love of Jesus in her heart, and she said she would try and come to church regularly, and she has been there twice. We are hoping to see her become a Christian very soon. I have two more places for my meetings, and almost always I have very nice meetings. Many women come to hear, so it encourages us very much. Sometimes I forget time, and have very long talks, for the women seem never tired. We believe that God is blessing our work abundantly, and we greatly need the help of the Holy Spirit.

Letter from KEI NISHADA, a Bible Reader.

I am very happy because I am allowed to write to you. Although I have never seen you before, still I am afraid that I will lose your interest in my letter from the very beginning as I cannot express my thoughts in English as much as I want. As you have heard already of our country from the others, it is not been lighted by the Gospel for the past many years. But now we are called out of the darkness to see it by the grace of Almighty God to whom I am very grateful, for he has bestowed abundant blessings upon us. I was absent from this happy school for a season, but happily I am brought back here once more, and am enjoying my studying with the Bible readers. Although I have a very little knowledge of His love but

I am trying to tell about the way of salvation among the women who do know nothing about the truth. I suppose you would like to know about some of our meetings so I will tell you one of our meetings which is held every Monday. family in the house is quite large as they have a store, there are two or three servants and they are living quite richly. When we made a first visit there we were asked by the adopted son who is interested in the religion of Christ but the principal lady of the house seemed as if she does not wish to hear us neither let others, but rather go on their works. But we told them kindly that there is but one true God whom we must serve only and for what purpose Christ came down from the Heaven, but she did not acknowledge nor reject it forcefully; so we did not give it up and tried all we could and asked our Heavenly Father for the blessings of the Holy Spirit to be poured out to make them understand the true, pure religion and also to repent of their sins. When we paid the fourth visit to them we found great change in her as her stiff heart was gone and she received and listened to us very kindly closely and attentively. Therefore we were very much astonished at her sudden change, and were very glad. Few days after I was told why so suddenly her heart became different from that of the before; it was because she dreamed a dream by which she was impressed much and experienced that it is very important to believe in Christianity and she is constantly improving in belief. So on every Monday we can have a nice meeting there now days. It was unspeakably grateful and happy when we were received. And we are asking and hoping to see some good fruits there soon by His tender mercy.

JAPAN—TSUKIJI.

Letter from Miss McNeal.

SOCIAL VISITS.

The work in the vicinity is rapidly opening up to us, and had I another lady with me and two of the girls of the Home, I could employ them all to good advantage. A few days since, I

went with Mrs. Sakurai to make some calls on the patrons of the school, none of whom are Christians, and mostly from families of officials. Some of the men say they would like their wives and mothers to learn about our religion, as they think it would be good for them. Mrs. Sakurai thinks this quite a concession for them. In every house in which we called, we were treated to New Years' hospitalities, it being New Year season as they say. The refreshments brought for us were of numberless variety, some dishes looking very tempting indeed, and some articles of food I found quite palatable. All seemed delighted to receive us, and begged us to come again, which we promised to do if they would allow us to tell them about Christianity, and they said they would be glad to hear. Of course we do not know how much of this was said from politeness, but Mrs. Sakurai thought it quite sincere. Had I two, three and four more hearts, hands and pairs of feet, how gladly would I follow this up and press into their houses with the blessed Gospel. I cannot tell you how, when the day was over, I longed for help and for time, to do the work that lies before us, all around us waiting to be done.

PRISON VISITATION.

Through Mrs. Sakurai, I sometime since became interested in one of the prisons not far distant, in which 1,000 prisoners are now confined. Some of them are Satsuma men from the south, insurgents in the late rebellion, many of them intelligent and educated. They have wanted Bibles, and I have been supplying them, obtaining them from the Depository of the Bible Society in Yokohama. We visited a few days since, the residence of this First Officer on the prison grounds, and talked to his wife of the love of the blessed Jesus for her. She is blind, having become so during an illness contracted by anxiety, while her husband was absent in the army during the insurrection. She seemed so grateful for our visit, and urged us to come again. The husband she said, had been looking for our coming, but was absent that day in a distant portion of the city and we did not see him. I hope to go again.

BURMAH.-Maulmain.

Letter from Miss Higby.

"IN TRIALS OFT."

The bill of exchange which was received duly is most acceptable to us, and helped me so that I closed school without any debt. There is so much to be told of my work, and of the blessings the Lord has given during the past year, I know not what to choose to write of. We have had a year of temporal prosperity, all that we could ask, but we shall feel heavily the result of famine and pestilence, as rice has risen to twice its usual price. We expect to have a larger school this year, but how we are to get food we do not know.

While I was at Dong You for my vacation, a tall and strong young girl about fourteen came to me one day saying, I wish to follow Mama into town. I asked if her parents had given permission and she said no, as many laughed at that idea. I watched her and found her very industrious and helpful, and trying hard to make progress in reading. She seemed so anxious to go with me that I found out her story. Her parents were wicked opium smokers, and as they were in debt to a miserable Bengali, they had promised him their daughter if he would release him. Nominally she was to be his wife, truly a slave bought with opium. I could not send her back to such a life, and asked a native Christian to find out what the parents would say, and they acknowledged the truth of the story.

Another young girl Miss Sea-shell, was four years ago in this Mission school three months. She went home with a strong desire to be a Christian, she would not work on the Sabbath, she prayed every day, and whenever she could elude the watchfulness of her mother and grandmother, she would run away on Sabbath morning and attend chapel in the Christian village of Dong You. Her grandmother was very bitter, and would pull off her dress as she was going down the ladder, so that she could not go. She would often run half clothed to a neighbor's house to borrow a dress to wear. They tore up her little "Life of Christ," the only book she could read, and her grandmother

would give her a new dress, a silk scarf and gold ornaments, if she would go to the heathen festival near by. When she met me her desire for study was again aroused, and she waited for a favorable opportunity and came to me. While we were waiting for a boat her mother came to see her, reviling and cursing her. She took her daughter by the hair and hit her head against the house post saying, "If you go to town you may die." After remaining about five months with me, she gave such good evidence of her conversion, that she was welcomed into the church by every one with joy. Her mother hearing of her baptism said, "If she comes home, I will cut her to death with this knife." Her cousin said, "I hope she will come home, I want to kick her." But she was so happy rejoicing in Christ, that all the temptations and persecutions that have been brought to bear upon her have failed to move her. The Lord has sent her trials and griefs too, but she is so gentle and patient, I love to think the Lord is preparing her for some good work, it may be in her own village.

A TENDER REMINISCENCE.

America does not seem the same to me since dear Mrs. Doremus has gone to her heavenly rest. I shall never forget one of the most loving and tender of her kindnesses to me. When I left Chicago to sail for Burmah, I did not write to anyone to meet me in New York, as I took a train that reaches that city very early in the morning. When I reached the station very tired and sad at leaving home, everything looked dismal enough, and the homesick feeling one has in a crowd of strangers came over me. Just then, through the window, I saw the form of dear Mrs. Doremus. I did not think then that she had come there just to meet me, but her warm greeting and kind care of me, soon showed me that she had. She arose before light, but had told no one where she was going, not knowing definitely if I would take that train. When I sat down to breakfast in her beautiful home, the comfort I felt by her side I shall never forget. It must have been the Lord she loved who put such tenderness in her heart for others. Oh! that I might have the heart to be as thoughtful.

Home Hepantment.

In Memoriam.

The bereavement that pierced our hearts two years ago in the removal of our loved and honored President, has been renewed to us in the recent entrance into rest of her husband.

Mr. THOMAS C. DOREMUS,

the life-long friend and benefactor of our Society. After a brief and almost painless indisposition, he fell "asleep in Jesus" on Sunday, February 16th.

The whispered call of his Saviour was to him a word of joy and not of terror, and the intimation that his hours were numbered, was met with a glad acceptance.

In the fresh vigor of his wonted health, scarcely shadowed by a cloud, he lay down one night to rest after taking part in a meeting for Christian work, little thinking that he was to "go no more out," until his glorified spirit should rejoin the shining ones beyond the veil. On earth the record is finished of a life exceptional in length of days, and rarely beautiful in its Christian beneficence, in its peaceful maturing, and in the grace and sweetness of its surroundings.

We dare not dwell upon the stunning suddenness and desolation of this blow within his home. We may not lift the sacred veil of reserve, even to give to his friends in every quarter of the globe the touching and beautiful details of his last hours, crowned as they were, with that wondrous peace, the Saviour's parting gift, and glorified by His presence. We turn to lay the palm-branch of victory at the feet of the dear Master, in grateful and loving remembrance of this, His faithful and beloved one, and to relieve our hearts by some faint expression of adoring gratitude that He was pleased to bestow upon us as a Society, so true and noble a Friend, so strong and wise a Helper.

Mr. Doremus has been the unseen supporter of our Society from its very infancy. A heavier, sweeter weight of gratitude than to him, we owe to no human friend. Through his wife and daughters for more than eighteen years, he showered upon it the unfailing springs of his bounty in a thousand ways. The unceasing gifts and attentions that Mrs. Doremus was ever extending to our missionaries and those of every denomination at home and abroad, would have been impossible but for his kind concurrence and sympathy.

He endorsed and supplemented all that her generous heart devised with the full resources of his strength and means. He was one with her in the cheerful acceptance of the untold sacrifices involved in the surrender of their beautiful home to the uses of the Society as its head-quarters for fifteen years, and in every other noble and unselfish service that the highest efficiency of the work demanded. One instance of the myriad may suffice to show what were the fruits of the Spirit that clustered richly over this dear Friend.

On the morning of Miss Brittan's last arrival from India, having been telegraphed of the steamer's approach, Mr. Doremus left the morning service of his church, (a thing of most rare occurrence), and spent hours upon the dock, chilled and comfortless, that he might give to the

returning missionary the joy of a true friend's presence, and make the pain less painful of missing his wife who never before had failed to be the first to greet each homeward-bound missionary with the gladness of her heartwarmed welcome.

We love to recall that he was among the first who offered to send a missionary to Japan after its ports were opened in 1859, under the auspices of the Reformed Dutch Church. This missionary he was privileged to support for many years and always gave to him his tenderest sympathy and hospitality on his return to America.

To the free outpouring of his means and time and strength in behalf of our Society, the crowning gift was given of his prayers. His heart was full of enthusiasm for the progress of the Gospel in heathen lands, and he prayed for it often throughout its grand expanse, but always he presented a special plea for the mission nearest his heart—"for this Society, in which we take so deep an interest." He never omitted a mention of it at family prayers, and his faith and confidence in what the Lord would do by it were always most inspiriting.

Who now will take up the censor of prayer that has fallen from his faithful hand?

Who will assume the rich heritage of his continuous intercession, and keep on reminding the Lord of it, as He loves to have His children do?

Who will press in to aid in some measure to supply the world-wide loss—to be reapers of the glorious harvest he has sown, that both he that soweth and he that reap may hereafter rejoice together in the presence of the Lord of the whole earth!

E. H. S.

Who Reads?

WE are often surprised at the lack of intelligent information which exists in relation to foreign Mission Work, and the consequent coldness and indifference which generally prevails. But how can we expect a different state of things when in many a family, the missionary periodical which comes laden with news from the end of the earth, is often not read at all, and sometimes not taken from its wrapper?

Dear reader, whose eye may fall upon these lines, we would ask of you a personal question, how much do you know of God's movements among the nations? Do you follow from time to time our missionaries in their work, in India, China, Japan, and the islands of the sea? Do your friends, who perhaps with you belong to some Mission Band keep themselves well-informed of the growth and need of the work? If not, and as a follower of Christ, you ask His blessing on heathen lands, how can you offer an intelligent petition, one which is anything more than a mere form? We would rouse each of our readers, and every member of this Society to a new sense of responsibility in this matter, and as our work depends so largely on independent, individual effort, we would urge each one, first, to a more complete consecration to Christ, and then to ask what she can do to interest others to exalt Christ's name. One new subscriber! one new friend! Who will make the effort?

Daughter's of Japan Series.

The Society have now in press the first two numbers of a new series under the above title. No. 1, Sai's Wedding, No. 2, Kitagana Haru. Both are sketches from life of native Japanese girls of the higher class of society, who were educated at our Home in Yokohama.

These little books are to be issued in elegant and attractive engraved covers of Japanesque design, and may be had at our Room. Price of single copies 10 cents; price to our Mission Bands, 3 copies, 25 cents; 12 copies, \$1.

Mission-Pand Pepartment.

The Little Nurses.

I HAVE taken charge lately over the ragged class in our Sunday-school in Japan, and with the assistance of one of the pupils in the "House" teach them every week. You know what a "ragged" class is in America, but I think you would hardly conceive of one like this. On Saturday afternoons I take some of the smaller girls and we go together down to a part of the city just below the "Bluff" on which we live, where there is only alley after alley of houses eight by ten feet, or rather huts in which the people are crowded like animals in a barn-yard. Out of these places and along the street we gather up our scholars for the next day.

Sometimes when I fail to go after them they forget or do not care to come, and then we have only a dozen or two who have come to know that "dontakin" means the day for them to go to the "foreign lady's" school. On other days the room will hardly hold the sixty little ones and their babies. Very often they tell us they cannot come because they must nurse the baby, and we say bring the baby too, and so they do. The baby is strapped on to the back inside the quilted garment they wear in winter, and very often cries so that the little nurse has to walk up and down the room shaking it, to keep it quiet while the lesson goes on. Yesterday a little girl about seven years of age trotted around in one corner of the room with what looked only like a piece of flesh, for it

hardly seemed a living creature with its tiny pinched head hanging over her shoulder.

I suppose very few of the children can read, but we teach them orally, the Lord's Prayer, Bible verses, the Child's Catechism, and hymns. Kaku is one of the girls who help me in the singing with these little strangers, and indeed is my stand-by when I want help for anything. One Sabbath I could not go to the foreign service, and she came to my room to ask me to explain the second chapter of St. James to her. She was reading it in her English Bible, but the words were beyond her comprehension, so I got my dictionary and a Japanese version of St. James, and we found our way through the doctrine of faith and works. She understood it finally, and to give it a settling reflection she inquired, "Miss Fletcher, did the carpenters who built the ark for Noah have works without the faith?" Can any of you answer her?

N. FLETCHER.

A Precious Relic.

An incident pleased me very much one day in my school. I always commence with religious instruction while the children are fresh and bright. I noticed a little girl between seven and eight was answering well and rising in her class, until she stood above some older children. Some time after she came to me and in a bright excited manner began opening a dirty piece of cloth tied with a string. When it was unrolled a well-worn catechism appeared to view. Holding this up to me the child said, "Oh! ma'am, this book which I bought is so beautiful. It is all about Jesus Christ, and I like it so much." This little girl, without the advantages of English or American children, had purchased the catechism with money given her by her mother to buy something

to eat, and appreciates with all her heart the truths contained in it. As the natives have only two meals a day, one in the morning and the other at night, the children have half a pice given them to buy something to eat. Is not this a lesson of self-denial, even to grown-up people, for the little thing must have been faint with hunger before her evening meal was ready?

I took a friend to see one of my schools last week, and after hearing the children sing and answer questions that would not have disgraced any white child, this remark was made, "Your school is a great treat and agreeable surprise. It is a dangerous place for Hindu children, for the truths now in their minds must bring forth good fruit."

A. HARRISS.

Little Girls in India.

GIRLS among the Hindus of this country are thought to be of very little account as compared with boys, so that a girl baby does not meet with the warm welcome that a boy does. In a family where the boys are sent to the Government schools and their tuition and books paid for, the girls will be brought up in complete ignorance and allowed to run wild, unless zenana visitors, such as we are here, come to the rescue and persuade the parents to send the girls to schools we provide. Sometimes when we ask them to permit a child to come to our free school a father will say, "What is the use of learning to a girl? She can never get employment under Government, nor can she ever do anything for her own support." They do not consider the advantage it will be to her to have her mind is cultivated. There one thing the girls are early taught in their homes, and that is the worship of idols. In nearly every house some room or part of a

verandah is set apart for this purpose. An idol of some size or kind is placed there permanently and the family prostrate themselves before it and mutter words they call prayer and bring their offerings of flowers, rice, etc., which are spread before it and arranged about it. In most of these places too, they have growing in the ground of the small court yard, around which the women's apartments of the house are built, a small plant called "Tulsi," which they consider holy, and before which they worship.

Our school is made up of children drawn from such houses as these; dark comfortless places they are in every sense of the word. The mothers as ignorant as the children. Each morning we send out three bullock carts to different parts of the city and gather all the children who will come to be taught. We have between fifty or sixty little ones between the ages of four and ten. Beyond this latter age we cannot hope to keep them as they must then be married, and after that, they are kept in seclusion, even though they stay, as many of them do for one or two years, in their father's house. Sometimes they are married and at once go away to their father-inlaw's house, and for years, perhaps never again, see their own family. The sons all marry and take their wives to their father's house, so that sometimes these houses are like great bee-hives, so full of people, small and great. I once went into a house in Calcutta where there were twenty-five little girls living. How many boys and how many grown people I do not know.

The girls have good minds and learn rapidly, we have now in school children of seven and eight years of age who are reading in books equalling the III and IV, of any of your series of Readers, studying geography, grammar and arithmetic, and who write a good hand, all in their own Bengali language.

M. C. LATHROP.

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A Friend, 250 00	Syracuse, S. S. of Reformed Church,	,
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per Mr. J. Paton, for Miss An-	Townsend, 10; Mrs. Frederick Townsend, 10; Mrs. Howard Townsend, 5; Mrs. Howard Townsend, 5; Mrs. H. Martin, 5; Mrs. J. B. Burnet, 5; Mrs. E. T. Martin, 5; Mrs. Robt. Town-	
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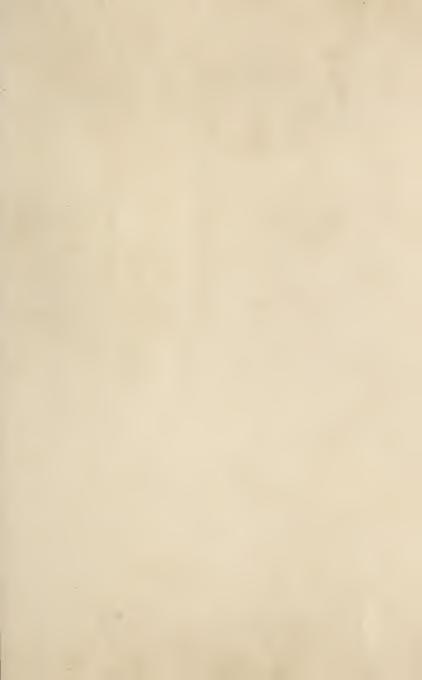
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